

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A film-forming stain blocking water borne coating composition for coating a substrate, wherein the coating composition prevents water-extractable substances contained in the substrate from leaching into the coating composition, the coating composition comprising ~~an~~ a film-forming organic binder and as stain blocking agent at least one type of inorganic nano-particles having a layered structure and a crystal structure with positively charged layers, wherein the total amount of inorganic nano-particles is ~~0.1-4.0%~~ 0.1-40% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition, and wherein the total amount of the film-forming ~~water-borne~~ organic polymeric binders is ~~20-100%~~ 4-80% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition.

2. (currently amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the nano-particles are anionic clays ~~or layered double hydroxide (LDH) salts~~.

3. (currently amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 2, wherein the anionic clays comprise at least one layered double hydroxide salt (LDH) is selected from the group consisting of hydrotalcite, stichtite, pyroaurite, desautelsite, and sergeevite.

4. (currently amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, comprising one or more ~~water-borne~~ film-forming organic polymeric binders selected from the group consisting of acrylic and styrene-acrylic dispersions, vinyl acetate copolymer dispersions, alkyd emulsions, polyurethane dispersions, water borne hybrids between urethane and acrylic polymeric dispersions, and UV-curable water borne polymer dispersions.

5. (previously presented) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pigments, fillers, dispersants, coalescing agents, curing agents, thickeners, humectants, wetting agents, biocides, plasticisers, antifoaming agents, colourants, waxes, and antioxidants.

6. (previously presented) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, which composition is a clear coat composition.

7. (previously presented) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least 0.3 wt percent (based on the total weight of the composition) of a dispersing agent.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) A method for coating a substrate comprising water extractable staining agents wherein the substrate is coated with an organic water borne coating composition comprising at least one type of inorganic nano-particles as stain blocking agent.

11. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise anionic clays, cationic clays and/or layered hydroxy salts (LHS).

12. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein substrate is coated with the stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 1.

13. (withdrawn) A coated substrate comprising water extractable staining agents obtainable by the method according to claim 10.

14. (withdrawn) The coated substrate according to claim 13, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of a wooden, cementitious, metal, mineral and synthetic substrate, substrate made from processed wood, painted wood or primed wood.

15. (withdrawn) Use of one or more types of inorganic nano-particles as stain blocking agent in an organic water borne coating composition.

16. (withdrawn) Use according to claim 15, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise anionic clays, cationic clays and/or layered hydroxyl salts (LHS).

17. (withdrawn) Use according to claim 16, wherein the inorganic nano-particles comprise a layered double hydroxide (LDH).

18. (withdrawn) Use according to claim 17, wherein the layered double hydroxide (LDH) is selected from the group consisting of hydrotalcite, stichtite, pyroaurite, desautelsite, and sergeevite.

19. (currently amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 3, wherein the layered double hydroxides salt (LDH) is optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.

20. (withdrawn) The coated substrate according to claim 14, wherein said substrate is a tannin-containing wooden substrate.

21. (currently amended) The stain blocking water borne coating composition to claim 2_3, wherein the layered double hydroxides salt (LDH) is optionally modified with one or more dispersing agents.

22. (withdrawn-currently amended) A method of coating a tannin-containing substrate, comprising:

providing a tannin-containing substrate;

coating the substrate with a stain blocking water borne coating composition, wherein the coating composition prevents leaching of tannins from the substrate into the coating composition, the coating composition comprising ~~an~~ a film-forming organic binder and as stain blocking agent at least one type of inorganic nano-particles having a layered structure and a crystal structure with positively charged layers, wherein the total amount of inorganic nano-particles is ~~0.1-4.0%~~ 0.1-40% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition, and wherein the total amount of ~~water borne~~ organic polymeric binders is ~~20-100%~~ 4-80% by weight, based on the total weight of the water borne coating composition;

curing the composition at a temperature below 100°C.

23. (new) The stain blocking water borne coating composition according to claim 2, wherein the nano-particles are layered double hydroxide (LDH) salts.